

Exhibit A

Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release

This Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release (the "Settlement Agreement") is made as of February __, 2014 by and between James A. Knauer as chapter 11 trustee (the "Trustee") for Eastern Livestock Co., LLC ("Debtor") and de Maio Farms & Ranches, Inc. d/b/a de Maio Land and Cattle ("de Maio"). The Trustee and de Maio shall collectively be referred to herein as the "Parties."

Recitals

A. Certain petitioning creditors commenced the above-captioned chapter 11 case (the "Chapter 11 Case") against Debtor on December 6, 2010 by filing an involuntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana, New Albany Division (the "Court"). The Court entered the Order For Relief in An Involuntary Case and Order to Complete Filing [Dock. No. 110] on December 28, 2010.

B. On December 27, 2010, the Court entered the Order Approving the Appointment of James A. Knauer as Chapter 11 Trustee [Dock. No. 102] approving the United States Trustee's Application for an Order Approving the Appointment of James A. Knauer as Chapter 11 Trustee [Dock. No. 98] pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1104.

C. Based on his investigation, the Trustee concluded that de Maio owes the Debtor \$298,842.17 on account of the Debtor's prepetition delivery of cattle to de Maio and evidenced by Debtor's invoice numbers 290892, 290922, 307884, 311469, and 311468 ("Invoices"). The Trustee also concluded that de Maio had received preferential transfers of Debtor's property in the total amount of \$53,160.34. de Maio disputes that it owes the full amounts reflected in the Invoices and has asserted defenses and offsets. de Maio also denies and disputes that it received any preferential transfer of Debtor's property.

D. The Trustee has filed an Adversary Proceeding against de Maio that is currently pending in the Court under Cause No. 12:59011 (the "AP Lawsuit").

E. The Parties desire to settle the AP Lawsuit and other claims and disputes between them upon the terms and conditions set forth below.

NOW THEREFORE, incorporating the foregoing Recitals and based upon the mutual promises contained in this Settlement Agreement and other valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Payment by de Maio. de Maio agrees to pay the Trustee \$99,255.42 (the "Settlement Amount"), within five (5) days of the occurrence of the Effective Date (as defined in Paragraph 2 below). The payment shall be made by delivery to the Trustee of a check made payable to "James A. Knauer as chapter 11 trustee of Eastern Livestock Co., LLC."

2. Court Approval of Settlement; Effective Date. This Settlement Agreement is subject to Court approval under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9019. Within three (3) business days following execution of this Settlement Agreement, the Trustee shall file with the Court a motion requesting the Court's approval of this Settlement Agreement (the "Settlement Motion"). The effectiveness of this Settlement Agreement is contingent upon the Court's entry of a final order approving the Settlement Motion (the "Settlement Order"). The date the Settlement Order becomes a final, non-appealable Order shall be referred to herein as the

“Effective Date”. The Parties shall file such additional information as the Court may request in an effort to obtain Court approval of the Settlement Motion. The Parties shall, in good faith, use all reasonable efforts to obtain approval of the Settlement Motion.

3. Mutual Release. In exchange for the promises contained herein, and conditioned upon the occurrence of the Effective Date and de Maio's payment of the Settlement Amount, each of the Parties and their officers, directors, employees, shareholders, attorneys, insurers, agents and affiliates, predecessors, successors, past, present and future parents, subsidiaries, assigns and heirs hereto forever **RELEASE AND DISCHARGE** de Maio Farms & Ranches, Inc. d/b/a de Maio Land and Cattle, Vincent de Maio, Ann de Maio, James A. Knauer, the Debtor, and their respective attorneys from any and all actions, suits, claims (whether in tort or contract), causes of action, administrative proceedings, damages (including actual, consequential and punitive damages), losses, costs, liabilities, expenses and penalties, whether known or unknown, discovered or discoverable, which have accrued as of the date of this Settlement Agreement (the “Released Claims”).

4. Stipulation of Dismissal. Within five (5) business days following the Trustee's receipt of the Settlement Amount, the Trustee agrees to file with the Court a Notice of Dismissal in the AP Lawsuit, dismissing all claims against de Maio, with prejudice.

5. Qualification; Authority. Each individual executing this Settlement Agreement on behalf of a party represents and warrants that he or she is duly authorized to execute and deliver this Settlement Agreement on behalf of such party and that no additional consents or signatures on behalf of such party are required in order for this Settlement Agreement to be binding and enforceable upon and against said party.

6. Each of the Parties Bears Own Costs. Each of the Parties agrees that it shall bear its own attorneys' fees and other costs incurred in connection with the negotiation and preparation of this Settlement Agreement and the procurement of the Settlement Order, including the preparation and filing of, and hearings for, all related motions.

7. Successors and Assigns. This Settlement Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective heirs, affiliates, assigns and successors in interest.

8. Governing Law. This Settlement Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Indiana except to the extent superseded by the Federal bankruptcy law applicable to the Chapter 11 Case.

9. Merger of Prior Agreements. This Settlement Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties, and any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, whether oral or written, related thereto are merged into this Settlement Agreement and are of no further force or effect.

10. Counterparts; Facsimile Delivery. This Settlement Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, and all so executed shall constitute one agreement binding on all Parties. Signatures may be delivered by facsimile and such signatures shall be binding upon the party delivering same as if they were originals.

11. Agreement Nonseverable and Mutually Dependent. All provisions of this Settlement Agreement are to be read in conjunction with each other. Each and every provision contained in this Settlement Agreement is nonseverable and mutually dependent on each and

every other provision contained herein. Provisions should be read together so as to harmonize the whole.

12. No Admission of Fault or Liability. This Settlement Agreement is a compromise of disputed claims and is not to be construed as an admission of liability or wrongdoing on the part of either party.

13. No Presumption Against Drafter. This Settlement Agreement was jointly drafted and there shall be no presumption against or burden placed on one party for its role in the drafting of the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Settlement Agreement on the dates indicated below.

de Maio Farms & Ranches, Inc. d/b/a de Maio Land and Cattle

By: Vincent de Maio

Printed Name: Vincent de Maio

Title: President

Date: 2-27-14

James A Knauer as Chapter 11 Trustee for the Debtor,
Eastern Livestock, LLC

James A Knauer

Date: 2-27-14